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TOW LAW
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the
Year Ended 31st December, 1959.

GS.

No. 6 Health Area,
"Springfield"
WILLINGTON,
Crook, Co. Durham.

Tel: Willington 375.

G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

J. B. KELLY, D.P.A. (Dunelm) D.M.A., A.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspector.

B

To the Chairman and Members

of Tow Law U.D.C.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for 1959.

The health of the area has remained good throughout the year. For the first time recorded there has been no death in a child under 1 year of age. Also no cases of puerperal disease, nor any death from infectious disease has occurred. While the death rate and birth rate are below national averages the excess of births over deaths is just maintained. Of the total deaths (34) 65% are attributable to diseases affecting the heart and blood vessels.

The number of cases of measles recorded rose rapidly during the earlier part of the year but the disease was mild and uncomplicated. The scarlet fever cases recorded were also mild and the rash evanescent in type.

G. A. MACGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

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ANNUAL REPORT - 1959

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year)	3,080
Area (In Acres)	477
Number of Inhabited Houses (Mid 1959)	1,211
Rateable Value (Mid 1959)	£17,443
Product of Penny Rate	£64. 0. 0

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	36	15	21
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	37	16	21

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	12.01
General Birth Rate (England & Wales)	16.5

Still Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	-	1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still)...	12.33

Deaths	Total	Males	Females
	34	18	16

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	11.03
Death Rate (England and Wales)	11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes ..	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births ... -

Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales) 22.0

Perinatal Mortality Rate 26.31

Deaths from Cancer 6

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... -

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years) ... ... -

Deaths from Whooping cough (all ages) ... ... -

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the past 6 years

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate Under 1 year	Birth Rate
1954	11.42	20.8	15.2
1955	10.83	16.95	18.79
1956	14.64	15.62	20.38
1957	12.81	17.24	18.6
1958	13.22	21.73	14.82
1959	11.03	-	12.01

CAUSES OF DEATHS

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	2
18. Coronary Disease, angina	3	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	-	1
20. Other heart diseases	2	4
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	-
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Bronchitis	2	-
24. Pneumonia	-	-
25. Other disease of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia and prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	-
33. Motor accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	1
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-
	18	16

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	-	-	-
Measles	129	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	1	1	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 6 years.

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1954	-	-	29	-
1955	-	-	2	-
1956	-	-	4	-
1957	-	-	2	-
1958	-	-	5	-
1959	-	-	10	-

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1959

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25 - 44 yrs.	45 - 64 yrs.	65 and Over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	6	-	1	-	-	-	10
Whooping Cough	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Measles	4	36	32	55	2	-	-	-	-	129
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS

YEAR	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1954	2	-	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
1955	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
1956	2	2	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1957	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1958	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1959	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TOW LAW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1959

(1) VISITS

The following is a summary of the visits undertaken by me during the year in pursuit of my official duties.

(1)	Housing (Public Health and Housing Acts)	136 visits
(2)	W.C. conversions and defective sanitary conveniences	64 "
(3)	Drainage	22 "
(4)	Water Supply	5 "
(5)	Food Premises and ... ... Slaughter Houses (including visits made when inspecting meat)	231 "
(6)	Factories and Workplaces	13 "
(7)	Keeping of Animals	2 "
(8)	Smoke Nuisances	3 "
(9)	Dairies	3 "

(2) NUISANCES:

(a) The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with during the year by means of notices. Other nuisances were remedied by informal action.

(b) During the year considerable inconvenience to nearby houses was caused by slag dust and deposits of fly-ash at the local slag works. The matter was taken up by the Management and by the removal of the fly-ash deposits some improvement in the position was eventually effected.

	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied after Notice
Housing (Public Health and Housing Acts)	9	-	9
Sanitary Conveniences	1	-	1

(3) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS:

During the year 20 inspections of dwellinghouses, shops and other buildings were made. Disinfestation treatments were carried out where necessary.

(4) SLAUGHTERHOUSES:

231 visits were made to slaughterhouses and other food premises during the year, principally in connection with the inspection of meat. The quality of the carcasses presented for inspection and the general hygiene of the slaughterhouse premises continued to be satisfactory.

(5) W.C. CONVERSIONS:

During the year 13 conversions from ash closets to the water carriage system took place. There are now 645 water closets and 460 ash closets in the district.

(6) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948:

During the year 15 premises subject to the Factories Acts were inspected.

(7) FOOD ETC. CONDEMNED:

During the year 429 lbs. of meat and 46 lbs. of loose provisions were condemned as unfit for human consumption and were disposed of either by being burnt by the Owners concerned or by being buried at the Council's tip.

(8) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-56:

Inspections under the above mentioned Regulations have been made and informal action has sufficed to deal with whatever contraventions have been discovered.

(9) FOOD PREMISES:

The following premises in the area are concerned with the manufacture and/or retailing of food:

2	Bakehouses
4	Butchers
24	Grocers, Greengrocers and Confectioners
19	Premises are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream
6	Dairies are licenced to retail milk in the area.

(10) HOUSING:

Housing inspections dealing with repairs, improvements and Rent Act queries figured prominently in the number of visits made by your Officers. Following the introduction of the Standard Grants Scheme for house improvements, 14 applications for improvement grants were submitted to and approved by the Council.

(11) MEAT INSPECTION:

The following table gives details of the carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number of Carcases inspected	164	26	-	550	130
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	3	-	10	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	12.8	11.5	-	1.8	1.5
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	-	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.9	-	-	-	1.5

One beast carcass was affected with localised Cysticercosis.

In conclusion, I would express my thanks to the Members of the Council for their support and encouragement and to the Officers of the Council for their kindness and assistance during the year.

J. B. KELLY,

Public Health Inspector.